

February 27, 2003

Exemption No. 4901H
Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2001-9282

Mr. Ronald J. Welding
Director, Operations Standards
Air Transport Association of America, Inc.
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-1707

Dear Mr. Welding:

This is in response to your February 5, 2003, letter petitioning the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of member airlines of the Air Transport Association of America, Inc. (ATA), other similarly situated part 121 operators, operators of part 63 flight engineer training schools, and part 142 training center certificate holders for an extension of Exemption No. 4901, as amended. That exemption from §§ 63.39(b)(1) and (2), and 121.425(a)(2)(i) and (ii) of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) permits ATA-member airlines and other qualifying part 121 certificate holders conducting part 121 approved flight engineer training programs to meet the certification requirements of § 63.39(b)(1) and (2) concurrently with the qualification requirements of § 121.425(a)(2)(i) and (ii) in a single flight check. The exemption also permits applicants in training for that flight check to take (1) the airplane preflight inspection portion of that flight check using an advanced pictorial means instead of an airplane, and (2) the normal procedures portion of that flight check in an approved flight simulation device. Furthermore, the exemption permits qualifying persons conducting part 63 flight engineer courses and all part 142 training center certificate holders conducting flight engineer training courses in accordance with part 63 to allow applicants who are training in preparation for the flight engineer practical test to take the normal procedures portion of that test in an approved flight simulation device.

In your petition, you indicate that the conditions and reasons regarding public interest and safety, presented in the original petition upon which the exemption was granted, remain unchanged.

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The FAA has determined that good cause exists for not publishing a summary of the petition in the Federal Register because the requested extension of the exemption would not set a precedent, and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to ATA member carriers, other qualified part 121 operators, operators of part 63 flight engineer training schools, and part 142 training center certificate holders.

The FAA has determined that the justification for the issuance of Exemption No. 4901, as amended, remains valid with respect to this exemption.

In consideration of the foregoing, I find that a grant of exemption is in the public interest. Therefore, pursuant to the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. §§ 40113 and 44701, delegated to me by the Administrator, Exemption No. 4901, as amended, is hereby further amended by extending its May 31, 2003, termination date to May 31, 2005, unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

All other conditions and limitations of Exemption No. 4901, as amended, remain the same. This letter shall be attached to, and is a part of, Exemption No. 4901.

In an effort to allow the public to participate in tracking the FAA's rulemaking activities, we have transitioned to the Department of Transportation's Internet-accessible Docket Management System (DMS), located at <http://dms.dot.gov>. This new system enables interested persons to submit, view, and download requests to the DMS in accordance with 14 CFR § 11.63. Future requests should be submitted through this system.

Sincerely,

/s/

Louis C. Cusimano
Acting Director, Flight Standards Service